

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has amended the title of the invention, and respectfully requests the amendment be entered.

Claims 7-12 and 14-27 remain in this application. The Office Action of January 26, 2005 contained the following notices of allowability and rejections:

1. Claims 14-17 and 25-27 are allowed.
2. Claims 7-12, 18 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, and 35 U.S.C. §103(a).
3. Claims 20-24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

These are addressed in turn below.

1. Allowance of Claims 14-17 and 25-27

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 14-17 and 25-27. However, based upon the Detailed Action, Applicant believes claim 14 is redundant of claim 11. Furthermore, since the Examiner did not specify any basis for rejecting claim 11, Applicant respectfully believes the Examiner intended to allow claim 11. Therefore, since the Examiner has indicated claim 14 is allowable, and that claim 11 contains all the limitations of claim 14, Applicant has cancelled claim 14 and retained claim 11. Similarly, since the Examiner has indicated claim 15 is allowable, and that claim 15 is dependent upon rejected claim 12, Applicant has amended claim 15 to independent form, includingt all the

limitations of claims upon which it was based. Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 11, 15-17, and 25-27 are now in condition for allowance, and that the rejection of Claim 11 be withdrawn.

2. Rejection of Claims 7-12 and 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicant has cancelled claims 7-10, 12, 18, and 19. Therefore, Applicant believes the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103(a) are now moot.

3. Objections to Claims 20-24.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating claims 20-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 20 in independent form, incorporating all the limitations of the claims upon it was previously based. Similarly, claims 21 and 22 have been amended to be dependent upon claim 20. Remaining claims 23 and 24 are dependent on newly amended claims 21 and 22 respectively. For these reasons, Applicant submits that claims 20-24 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

SUMMARY

Believing it has addressed all matters raised by the Examiner's January 26, 2005 Office Action, Applicants respectfully request timely action on the merits. No fees are believed to be required for the amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is permitted to deduct or credit any fees that may be required from Kinetic Concept Inc. Deposit Account No. 500-326.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that outstanding issues remain in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated to discuss resolution of such issues.

Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadeem G. Bridi", written over a horizontal line.

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